

INQUIRER *Mindanao*The P4-billion
white elephant
of N. Mindanao

THE NEW
international
building within the
Mindanao
International
Container Terminal
Port lands the
President
International Estate
in Taguigan, Misamis Oriental.
Illustration by [illegible]

By Grace Castañeda
Taguigan, Misamis Oriental

NORTHERN Mindanao has a P4-billion white elephant. The Mindanao International Container Terminal - Port (MICTP), located at the 3,000-hectare Thyssen Industrial Estate in Taguigan, Misamis Oriental, has stopped its operations since April this year after a local court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) three days after President Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated it.

The TRO stemmed from a complaint filed by the Onyiah Cargo Handling Services Inc., alleging that the Thyssen Industrial Estate (TIE) has no legal authority over the holding of operations in the MICTP and that it gives unfair competition to the Onyiah Cargo Handling.

The business sector in the region said MICTP's non-operation has halted the development of northern Mindanao as it was designed to improve the region's economy by becoming the major transshipment hub and a pillar economic stability of the country.

Some businessmen criticized the local court's action as undermining the commitment of the revenue administration to pump up economic development in Mindanao.

The Onyiah is the Onyiah of Onyiah, a business organization, said the MICTP is just an other government-initiated project that has turned into a major loss.

Instead of generating income, it has now become a liability as it is forced to pay the 1 percent per annum interest of the P4.5-billion loan acquired from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC). The payment of the principal loan is due in 2013.

Fears

The business sector fears that the continued non-operation would put to waste the expensive state-of-the-art port facilities such as the two loading and unloading cranes, 266 miles train, traffic rules system for road and waterway traffic, which could otherwise be used to improve the region's economy and eventually add to the local backbone of the country.

They also fear that investors would think twice before coming here because of the negative signal the case brings.

The revenue from port charges and cargo handling is six times as MICTP is projected to be about P1.5 billion.

JBIC projections show a 22 percent annual increase in revenue from this year on to 2016.

The project is also expected to create an other one million jobs in the agri-industrial sector in six years to complement the government's job creation target.

JBIC administration officials from Taguigan disclosed that JBIC has already inquired about the stalled operations at the MICTP and how an operation could be restarted in the project.

"The government's credibility is now at stake and it is undermining the foreign administration," JBIC officials stressed.

The MICTP during its operations in April this year, had received only its international standard revenue.

The business sector is urging the President to call for an immediate resolution of the MICTP-JBIC dispute with Onyiah.

Businessmen also called on the justice department to look into the authority of the local court in issuing a TRO against a government-initiated project.

They also believe that it is vital that a special national committee be created to study and monitor the impact of the project on the lives of the people of Mindanao where it is allowed to operate again.

The committee, the businessmen added, should also grant the authority to the PIA to construct, install, maintain, operate and maintain the MICTP in the province of Mindanao, Misamis Oriental and improve goods until a private service provider shall have successfully handled the bidding process.



THE MICTP is the province of Mindanao, Misamis Oriental and improving goods until a private service provider shall have successfully handled the bidding process.

'Don't exploit FPJ burial in a political game'

By Leticia Alarcon
A request from the
long-again Christian group
is to bring his remains to
Bulacan for a Mass before the
burial.

"This nation be done," Mary
Luz said as she came, an
officer of the FPJ Family Council
during the funeral. She said praying
the request would not be granted
because the funeral Mass is
scheduled to begin at the FPJ Pro-
cession grounds in Pasig City before
proceeding to the cemetery.

Others explained to Mary
Luz that the request from the
Bulacan branch, Mrs. Milla Milla,
had been refused by former Vice
President "Tito" Sotto, a close
friend of the family.

It should have ended his
burial during the presidential
funeral, making her election
in this that it would not be
for her in the National Cathedral
city, which would be a blessing
for her.

'Prayers want to say Mass'
It's not only the Catholic
but also the Protestant church
is to hold a Mass on Friday at the
San Fernando Church, St. George
Basilica, and the church.
Some clergy members in the
city want to say a Mass for FPJ.
But during the funeral, no one
wanted to be identified with
the "Mass said."

For the Philippine Church,
a group of bishops also wants to
hold a special service for the
deceased and his family.

But no Mass has been held
yet. "We are still waiting for
the official announcement of
the bishops," he said.

Never too late
House Minority Leader
Francis Pangalanan said he
will not be a member of the
committee to investigate the
death of the late President
Ferdinand Marcos. He said
he was not a member of the
committee to investigate the
death of the late President
Ferdinand Marcos.



IT SHOULD have been the other way around but it is Susan Reyes who carries a portrait of her husband who was cremated before he got to the crash of the crowd inside the church.



THE VIGIL at FPJ's home/temple just got on and on. Now close here/there "bring" outside the late President's Church compound, making, sleeping there and waiting to stay until their job's finished.

Luisito Rey, 34, said he and
his wife, Susan, 33, and
children of three children, all
went to the funeral. He said
he was not a member of the
committee to investigate the
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GETTING ready to deliver the remains of "the King" members at the Manila Cemetery were against a deadline. On the 22, when the police had to be sent to the cemetery and the police.

FPJ tomb 'simple but decent like him'

By Tina S. Santos
FORDING and emotions will
be the Manila Cemetery
when remains are laid to rest
on Wednesday.
"It's not easy to see and we
want to make him feel that
even in death," Leticia de los
Santos, one of the organizers of
the FPJ Foundation, said.
A number of workers were
busy preparing the site.
The site was the site of the
late President's residence.
The site was the site of the
late President's residence.
The site was the site of the
late President's residence.
The site was the site of the
late President's residence.

Old foes now fight for common cause

By Leticia Alarcon
They agreed to help
promote vegetable gardening
as a way of coping with the
scarcity of food. As the
bishops, he had been active in
the community and church
for the social justice projects
of the Department of
Education and Social Services
were founded in 1975.

No bitterness
"The day after General
Villamor belonged was during
the machine gunning war, and
bombing in the Cavite
military and the Santa
Marta," recalled Villamor,
who was a member of the
FPJ Foundation. He said
he was not a member of the
committee to investigate the
death of the late President
Ferdinand Marcos.



TWO MEMBERS, Santos and Villamor from two opposing sides of the fence are now working together in a common cause to promote vegetable gardening.

Never again
A member of the Philippine
Military Academy Class of 1961
who had been a member of the
committee to investigate the
death of the late President
Ferdinand Marcos.

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Gov't hopes ceasefire with Reds would lead to peace

THE GOVERNMENT - opposed hopes on Sunday that the collapse of Christmas ceasefire is too important with constant insurgent outbreaks.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), however, have not yet agreed to the Christmas truce but they are "exploring the possibility."

President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokeswoman Pura Hontela by radio today said the government would welcome any reciprocal action by the communists, but added that "it would be more beneficial if both the government and the CPP/NPA can come up with lasting peace."

She also cited the conflict in law between the government and the main Marxist splinter

group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which has paved the way for formal peace talks between the two sides.

She said Filipinos in the next year had had enough of the CPP's three-decade-long Marxist insurgency, adding that "it is high time that insurgents to govern them."

The President had declared a truce 14 in Jan. 2007 followed weeks later with the communists in the spirit of Christmas and urged the rebels to reciprocate.

Armed forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Benito Alano, however, warned that he would ask the President to lift the ceasefire if the NPA continued to stage attacks.

The government and the NPA among CPP/NPA had made, usually called ceasefire during

the Christmas season.

The communists called off peace talks with the government in August, accusing Manila of not doing enough to persuade the United States and the European Union to remove their troops from their list of foreign terrorist organizations.

Under Rep. Antonio Cuenco, previously signed CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison to come home and lead the communist party in talking peace with the government.

Cuenco, chief of the House committee on foreign affairs, said there should

lead the local government's order to leave the Philippines for overlapping.

By going home, he said, Sison would be able to have a direct hand in the peace process, instead

of merely and put an end to the communist insurgency problem. *Quintin O. Balmori AFP*

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Kuwait bars Pinoys from Iraq

KUWAIT has imposed a ban on Filipino citizens to border Iraq and entered its border authorities to stop those who would attempt to avoid into the violence-ravaged Middle East state, foreign officials said yesterday.

The ban, which applies only to Filipinos, came a month after Philippine officials, led by Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, persuaded the Kuwaiti government to suspend it in view of the "improved situation" in Iraq.

Kuwait's ban on border crossing of all foreigners was lifted in October just when Philippine officials were scrambling to avert a temporary ban on the deployment of watercraft.

Ambassador to Kuwait Ramon Ballesteros said the Kuwaiti government's decision

"The Kuwaiti government has demonstrated that, while recognizing the universal right of refugees to travel, extraordinary circumstances necessitate more proactive action from governments, especially in protecting the lives of its citizens," he said.

The security situation in Iraq "has worsened" against refugees and foreign workers, including Filipinos, in more recent attacks and kidnappings, the ambassador said, citing statements by refugee officials in Baghdad.

Two Filipinos were hurt in separate attacks on two UN camps in late November and early December between 5,700 and 6,000 Filipinos are estimated to be working in several UN military installations in the capital Baghdad and elsewhere. *22 Balmori*

Keywords: *corruption, ethics, whistleblowing, organizational culture, organizational commitment*

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"HOW COULD you say no to someone like him," says former FPJ leading lady Imelda Ilanan.

How FPJ 'pursued' a pregnant leading lady

By Marinel R. Cruz

FORMER actress Imelda Ilanan tried to turn down offers to do a film with Fernando Poe Jr. twice in the '70s, but the king of Philippine movies was "so persistent that I couldn't say no."

Imelda, one of the most beautiful faces in the late '60s, said FPJ used to visit her almost every day until she agreed to do the movie with him.

"He told me, 'you're the perfect actress for that role. I want you to do it and no one else.' How could you say no to someone like him?" said Imelda, in the home of her daughter, actress Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan, in Quezon City.

Imelda said she did not want to do "Asedillo" in 1971 with FPJ because she had been four months pregnant with her second child, Melvin.

"I didn't want to commit to it because I knew we would be shooting on location and that I would have to travel far," Imelda explained. "*Ayaw niyang pumayag*. He said having a pregnant leading lady would bring him good luck."

"Asedillo," directed by Celso Ad Castillo and now considered one of local cinema's best movies, became a box-office hit in 1971. It also brought FPJ his second best actor award from the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas) that same year.

FPJ's first Famas best actor award was for his performance in "Mga Alabok sa Lupa."

Topless scene

Imelda, who played Poe's third wife in "Asedillo," continued to shoot the movie until she was in her ninth month of pregnancy.

Imelda said she did not want to be part of the other movie, "Bontoc," also with FPJ as her leading man and directed by the late Pablo Santiago, because "I didn't want to go bold."

According to Imelda, she had to shoot two "difficult" scenes in "Bontoc." One scene required her to go topless while running on a beach, while the other required her to fight off a rapist.

Imelda said she was supposed to play FPJ's mother in the movie, which she did not like. "How could I play a mother to him?" she said. "I was just 27 when we did that movie, and Ronnie [FPJ's nickname] was way older than

I. But Ronnie said I would only be part of the flashback scenes.

"I'll never forget when he told me, 'if you're an actor, you could do anything,'" Imelda said. "He and Direk Pablo did well in convincing me [to do the movie]. Ronnie said we would buy a long wig to cover my breast while I'm doing the scene on the beach. Direk Pablo promised that none of my private parts would be exposed during the rape scene."

No regrets

"I believed them, and the movie turned out well," she added. "I'm glad I did that movie. No regrets."

Imelda's first movie was "Geron Busabos, Batang Quiapo" in 1964, with FPJ's best friend, former President Joseph Estrada, in the title role. Estrada produced the film, written by Augusto Buenaventura and directed by Chat Gallardo, under his JE Productions.

"I played my first lead role in that movie and Ronnie was our guest star," Imelda recalled.

Imelda also worked with FPJ in "Dos Por Dos" and "Bato sa Buhangin." They were last seen together in "Mabuting Kaibigan, Masamang Kaaway" in 1991.

"Ronnie was a very generous man," she said. "He took care of his co-stars very well. Once, I asked for *lechon de leche* and he immediately sent one to the set. But he also made sure that the crew members were provided with the best food. *Pantay-pantay ang treatment niya*."

For eight years now, Imelda has been living in Singapore with her husband, Ben Avanceña, and her youngest child, Misha. The former actress arrived in Manila on Dec. 12, the day FPJ was rushed to the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City, where the actor died on Dec. 14 just one minute after midnight.

Imelda said she received a text message from her daughter Maricel's sister-in-law, Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano, informing her of FPJ's condition.

"Angeli was asking that I pray for Ronnie's recovery," Imelda recalled. "I got nervous, but I didn't think it was that serious. I knew Ronnie to be a strong man. I thought he would eventually get better."

FPJ's neurologist, Dr. Abdias Aquino, said FPJ suffered a "severe brain attack" or stroke.

"When I heard of his death, I got depressed," Imelda added. "Ronnie was a true friend to many."



IMELDA, now a Singapore resident, with her grandchildren (clockwise from her left) Kiana Valenciano, daughter of Gary Valenciano and Angeli Pangilinan, and Ella and Dory Pangilinan

ENTERTAINMENT

Read us your best picks for the week's top TV shows on 1237 (Good on 363 Smart)

Editor Louie C. Cantino
Assistant Editor Brenda S. Villarza

Sharon first actress to win TOYM award

By Reynald San Diego
Cover Story

BELEAGUED Sharon Cuneta and her husband, "Sherry" Pineda led the way's The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awards, which were announced in the presence of President Mañalac-Arroyo at the Rarick Hall in Makati last Wednesday.

Cuneta is the first female actress to win the TOYM award. The TOYM is given annually to "promising young Filipinos who distinguished with dedication to their professions." Aside from entertainment and sports, the other fields represented this year are architecture, plant breeding and genetics, entrepreneurship, health care, local government, environmental law, and government service.

Sharon and Sherry are joined by the following awardees, all aged 41: Francis Rodriguez (Executive Director, Bureau for Government Service); Dr. Jose Jose del Rosario, pediatric cardiologist; Marissa La Torre (Chair of CMAA, T. Cordillera management); Glen Gregorio, plant breeding and genetics; Maria Camille Ilerdillo (Lapson, medicine, triathlete); and Jerry Fernandez (arts and sciences, architecture). Maria Del Un, environmental law, and Rosalinda Magpa (Finance IS, health entrepreneurship).

Rebuild the nation

In the collective speech drafted by Dr. Jose del Rosario, the award TOYM launch affirmed that the award represented three things: "commitment, dedication, and challenge."

The winners hope "to harness our individual talents, intellect, our resources, and work together for a noble cause relevant to the needs of our people."

In light of the recent tragedy in Marikina and Chicono provinces, the winners expect "to educate the nation, two hours to work for sustained unity—unity among everyone who strives and survives in this, brick by brick, road by road, present because we care again for our pride and patriotism for the simple truth that we are Filipinos."

Introduced by the Philippine Jaycees, the TOYM Foundation, and the Quezon House Foundation, the TOYM was conducted 40 years ago. But TOYM winners included the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., actor Imogee Alarcon, painter Jose Joy, architect Leoncio Lopez, economist Raul T. Bana, literary critic Emmanuel Torres, musician Oscar De la Rosa, filmmaker Lito Lapid, poet laureate Jose Bangoy Jr., and photographer Gabriel "Pasha" Flores.

Before being named to the TOYM board last year, the Magnum and the National Film Development Corporation.

The 40th annual TOYM award ceremony was held at the Rarick Hall in Makati last Wednesday.

Going back

The second winning singer actress was the Best Actress trophy in the 11th International Festival of Independent Film in Brussels, Belgium, for her comeback performance in "Grey Lady," directed by Mark Molloy.



"We all need a little good news, a little hope, a little happiness. That's why when it comes our way, we have to embrace it. We have to acknowledge it. We have to be grateful."

As the first female actress to win the TOYM, Cuneta, once given awards from the entertainment world, composed Ryan Cayabyab, Imelda and singer Joe. What Cuneta, pop singer and actress, leads to her TOYM laurels, theater actress Lea Salonga, and filmmaker Ophelia Dizon-Bayon.

Cuneta is currently "thrilled" for and is inspired by her latest award. She says the TOYM will encourage her further, push her to strive harder.

"It's a constant struggle," she admits, "if you're achieving a certain level of excellence, at least to maintain the passion for the things that you love to do. It's not just about taking but also about giving back whatever I can."

Just like her husband's trophy, she dedicates her TOYM trophy to her country and the movie industry which she loves deeply.

Cuneta, who was joined by her husband, Sen. Francisco Pangilinan at the Makati City Council ceremony, looks at her TOYM trophy as a symbol of hope, personally and professionally.

"The past has been filled with a lot of bad news, but as I always say, it's important to be always hopeful, more especially in a time of crisis, so that you could give hope to your co-workers, to your industry, and to yourself. Without hope, you cannot go on. That is why I am so grateful for this award."

She shares her TOYM trophy with her colleagues in the entertainment industry who are overcoming the loss of actress Ina Fernandez this year.

"This is happening in a time of grief, in the midst of such a big loss, with lives having passed on,

cheers. We lost, I was afraid that I was too depressed to attend the awarding, but I said a prayer and, surprisingly, on the day itself, I felt better than I did the day before (before he died)."

"We allowed a little good news, a little hope, a little happiness. That's why when it comes our way, we have to embrace it. We have to acknowledge it. We have to be grateful."

"Life has to go on," she adds, "and I'm sure Sharon (Cuneta, 70) will feel so relieved knowing she has chosen to be happy that it is a choice."

FOR
COUNTRIES
and
industry.
The
Magnum
awards
has award
from
President
Mañalac-Arroyo
(photo
courtesy)



Japanese Asian softball champs; Blu Girls fifth

POWERHOUSE Japan will watch surprise finalist China-Taipei in a game devoid of drama and fear, 5-0, to capture the eighth Asian women's softball championship yesterday at the Rial Memorial stadium.

Three pitchers who led the Japanese to a bronze medal finish in the last Olympic Games again did a magnificent job, combining for a three-hitter as Japan organized the crowd in last or reversed third place. Close in 1987.

But, Takayama shows a machine in her settings. However, Yukiko Ueno did not see the opportunity to use images of Japan and chose Yoko Ono gave up on as the Japanese proved too chaotic and too good for a Taiwanese artist making his first ever appearance in the festival.

The *Yokohama* moved up in the rankings this year against the heavily favored Japanese after beating China, U.S. machine in the day.

And David had superb help, offensive with one hit, including a double with two-outs before second inning of the title playoff on a situation of men-on-base around of 1,000.

The Japanese clinched their fourth title since the inauguration in 1967 in Manila, using the title harvest of Jifeng Jiaoping, China, which ruled the last two editions in an amazing streak that started in 1967 in Tokyo.

Japan lost seven of the championships in 1974 in Manila on the support of an RP team led by Abdo Wabwag, Isly Chongco and Jolly Tene.

In an earlier game, the Philippines won a 30-9 win over South Korea, to place fifth in the meet organized by the Amateur Athletic Association of the Philippines headed by former Manila Congressman Harry C. Amador.

The Win Girls, who have never won this tournament, issued the right to challenge for Korona for G&H place by beating Incheon in an abbreviated game in the morning, 12-1.

The Taiwanese insisted the heavily favored Chinese, thanks to a run-mongering uncle to ensure by Li Ching will be that on his right is moving that end of the right coast.

But the Germans refused to go down without a fight and launched to four times the volume of the firing. Now the screaming rifle that ended when I ran 100 yd out to where was I. It wasn't the final one.

**And she'll
be on the
cover
again!**

Watch out for the year-end GROSSY issue of JGIM on Thursday, Dec. 7!

DAMPS. Carlos Villaverde (left) and other winners of the Mud Trail and Tour International Pro-Am, from left, Simon Gili, Ray Gili and John Pughman. Gili's wife laughs during "Smolder" a reading by winners. Children in purple are, ITT chair Wade Gil (second from left) and ITT director Kurt Wernicke (right).

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Business Features Editor Margie Quinsigano-Espino

Sunday Biz

Life of a British diplomat in the Philippines

By Margie Quinsigano-Espino

OUTOGRAPHS British Ambassador to the Philippines Paul Dixon has been more places in the country than the average Filipino.

He says there he was posted in the Philippines once and a half years ago by his home traveling around the country almost every week.

By the end of the year, the 60-year-old will still return to the British diplomatic corps, where he spent 41 years in and out of his post—a career he has grown fondly fond of. Dixon was the guest of the business during his recent inevitable discussion where he graciously answered a series of questions that ranged from politics to his personal life.

Just the true diplomat, he states he wants a typical day by reading the Inquirer—first the front-page then the opinion page, the criticism of media in his article, and then the sports.

"To me the value of it is a unique point, a reference point. We don't have the freedom of media but we need to control ourselves and needs to balance out view of the world from the point of media. As ambassador I have a lot of time reading the newspaper. I need a lot and I



DIXON

read the local newspapers. I need to balance what I read by talking to people."

Dixon's first posting to the Philippines was in 1963, when he was 21 years old. He was the youngest diplomat in the country at the time. He says he has been in the Philippines for 41 years, and he has been in the Philippines for 41 years, and he has been in the Philippines for 41 years.

"It will be the first time in 41 and three-fourth years when I will have no agenda on a Monday morning," he laughs.

But he says, "This is part of my life" and would like to take a year in London where he can "maintain contact with my friends in Asia."

He says he has been in the Philippines for 41 years, and he has been in the Philippines for 41 years, and he has been in the Philippines for 41 years.

the country.

He also loves having more Filipino professionals in the UK. There are 100,000 Filipinos in Britain, 1,000 of whom are students. He says efforts are being made to encourage more Filipino students and bringing up the number to 5,000 in graduate level. Instead of the UK as the graduate market.

Depletion theory

On the services front, he says there remains a big market in Britain for Filipino workers, especially nurses, caregivers, hotel and restaurant staff, software developers. To avoid the depletion of families, he says the British government encourages the workers to bring their families to the UK after a certain period of time.

Dixon, however, points out a vital issue that is currently being addressed. He calls it the depletion theory.

"We are concerned in the long-term that we have the depletion effect. If too many of the middle class are not in the Philippines you will not see the vibrant middle class effect."

This theory of the Philippines is a very broad, the impact of these workers on the local economy will be gone because the industry is not just being depleted with them.

But he says, "This is part of my life" and would like to take a year in London where he can "maintain contact with my friends in Asia."



ON THE lighter side, he talks of reading a new magazine in job—“It’s like an extended preview that the rest is out of this world.”

PHILIPINE DAILY INQUIRER

He eventually got posted in Japan years later.

Memories

When he leaves the Philippines, he will carry memories that are many Filipinos would never experience.

He talks of having been a small assisted processing facility to become members of the Muslim League, a group who have given up arms and decided to contribute to the country's economy.

During his time Dixon was very optimistic that peace will eventually be achieved in Mindanao. He believes that with peace, economic

growth will not be behind.

In talks of leaving Dixon says that when he arrived a new country was a massive phenomenon where people of varied cultures and religions have been able to live harmoniously the past years. (See story on Page B4.)

On the lighter side, he talks of reading a new magazine in job—“It’s like an extended preview that the rest is out of this world.”

Dixon packed for the retirement of the British government as programs that also include people for the entry of funds for development.

He points out the problem is

not lack of funding for the absorptive capacity of the local economy. He mentions supporting the local property development activities (LDP) which helps train local officials.

He is looking forward to his retirement in June for Dixon.

But Dixon's main preoccupation when he gets to London is to help with his family who have been in the Philippines for 41 years.

He is looking forward to his retirement in June for Dixon. But, if he does retire, the country will have a physical presence in his London home as he is not to take with him any of his family's assets.

By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

FOR the business traveler who is always on the road all year round, lightweight, practical and high tech are the key elements to consider when looking for their perfect device.

BUSINESS TRAVEL

Through a Wi-Fi router or a mobile phone packed with features, wireless small video

and still more, to reach from touch-screen displays, etc. Brain Army Kube's Innoventory USB is for transfer who like working on the phone. The original version includes a red USB light and a ball point pen.

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Canada quietly helping RP for over 30 years now

MANILA CITY...for the past 30 years, Canada has been the country's major donor in pushing for sustainable development, as could be seen in more than 1,000 projects across the country.

Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Rufus Anderson said such commitment would continue in the coming decades.

Anderson, along with his key officials and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), met on Wednesday to sign the memorandum of agreement between small business enterprise (SMEs) and the Canadian International Council (CIC), a body handling the Canadian development assistance to the country and a successor company of the Canadian International Council (CIC).

Anderson said the approach to the development projects is going to be "government-led" to help communities achieve "self-sufficiency."

"We expect that the idea comes from the Philippine and we give a little of our resources and a little of the idea," Anderson said.

The source (name withheld), which comes from Canada as International Development Agency (IDA), a project managed by the Finance of Canada and the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, amounts to \$15 million a year.

The agreement signed between the IDA and CIC, Anderson said, was designed to help local communities further promote their enterprise, thus creating more jobs for the more unemployed.

The recently launched Philippine-Canada Development Cooperation (PDC) fund, Anderson said, was designed to help local communities further promote their enterprise, thus creating more jobs for the more unemployed.

Anderson said the Canada Fund began in 1972.

The fund is now known as the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).

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All a business traveler wants for Christmas

And of course, the teenagers have every business traveler's wish list. From airplanes to cars, there's something for everyone. But for the most part, the kids want the same things: a new car, a new car, a new car.

Business Traveler's Guide to the Philippines is a new book from the publisher. It's a new book from the publisher. It's a new book from the publisher.

Happy (working) holidays!
 Feedback at bizbiz@yellow.com

Resorts great and small

From page C1

caravan-driven cart or arrive down the lake—framed by coconut palm trees and big, native-style cottages on stilts—on a lagoon boat.

The lake leads to a cascade dam in front of which you peruse of swimming Filipino dishes with the spring water and filling natural pools here first. The resort plantation also has an impressive outdoor built in the style of an old Laguna strand, and an establishment where children drives are presented.

My favorite resort is Laguna, if not the whole of Luzon mainland, is hidden valley springs (tel. 80184033), which lies in the Ilocos Cebuano boundary 75 km north of Manila City.

It is a 90-minute drive from Alabang, nearby less, take take 52 of the South Expressway, passing through Calamba and Sta. Rosa, Batangas, in the direction of San Pablo City and (Tayabas).

Alabang is right after Sta. Rosa. Turn left at the Alabang Plaza and follow the arrows leading to the resort. (Carless motorists like us have to take a tripe at the Alabang public market which costs P200.) The 5-km route, once a dirt road, is now surrounded for the most part.

Fascinating history

The birth of the valley makes for fascinating natural history. It is said that once upon a time volcanic upheavals formed a 110-acre crater more than 300 ft deep. Because of springs, with varying temperatures, were treasured. And trees and plants emerged, "undisturbed for centuries." At the edge of the crater was created a hidden world of all.

Before the coming of the Spaniards, 130-year traders were the first to explore the virgin wilderness. It is said that their trails still exist by the hidden waterfall, which at one time was home to strange white bats.

The valley blooms with more than 150 species of plants. It is owned by the descendants of Don Benito de los Angeles, who purchased the property in 1928.

A distinct feature of the resort are the tall, slender trees, some 200 years old, with crabs which appear down gracefully into a large cone-shaped basin. It would take quite a number of people to encircle the base. The history of the biggest ancient tree has evolved a plaque, but the knowledge is now too faded to read.

Also noteworthy are the bridges and the comfortable cottages, known as delicias sites, which blend with the natural surroundings. Their floors are made of sturdy wooden planks that are old and discarded railroad



200-year-old ancient tree



WARM pool by night at Hidden Valley



HIDDEN Falls' mighty cascade

tracks.

The pools are what bring in the crowds, mostly South Korean and Filipino families, especially during weekends. There's the Warm Pool, Cold Pool (Mineral) and the so-called "Lovers' Pool" (cold), which is actually the most popular of the watering holes.

It's the Warm Pool for us. The spring waters here, which flow thousands of feet down, are really refreshing and soothing, despite the rainstorms and the cool weather these days.

This is actually a series of pools, circular, oval and horizontal in shape, with mild waterfalls and a gorgeous landscape. Not are surrounded by green, ferns, trees, some mushrooms, boulders and artificial walls, plants, flowers and glass houses. The Cold Pool is another one popular with guests.

And then, of course, there is the hidden falls, accessible only via a 15-minute hike through the four trails of the forest, dotted by ancient trees. The nature like to take their outdoor shots here. There's foliage all around, a cliff to your right and a shallow ravine to your left.

Soon you will hear the swirling waters of the falls, 100-meter, some 80 steps, down into the gorge, start right and—behold—there is the hidden falls in all its splendid majesty, backdropped by the trees and the ancient, massive walls of stone.

Swimming is forbidden here, for the stream is soft and the waters, during a downpour, have been known to rise suddenly.

It's fascinating to view the hidden falls again after several years. This is, after all, the place the rest of us of hidden valley springs.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Rambion Resort offers discounts

A GILGAY Beach Resort in Alcantara, Tablas Island, Rambion, is offering a 10-percent discount on its rates until March 15.

Visit the website <http://joceline.com/gilgaybeachresort>, or call its Manila office at 425415, 825 5054 or 8919-0365/08.

Alternative to Bagaio

JANE Jarabe, Tagaytay Picnic Grove's (TPG) new resident manager, aims to help make the resort city a true alternative to Bagaio.

Tagaytay is much closer to Manila, sparing Metro Manila the hassle of a long drive. It boasts of a cool climate and a panoramic view of the Taal Lake and its volcano. Jarabe hopes to make TPG cleaner and greener as a picnic grove should benefit the planting of more trees.

Call the Office of Tourism Information at 52511805/526946, tel. 5256338.

Early Christmas treats

LOCAL residents and holiday-goers get early Christmas treats until Jan. 10 from Linden Suites.

Room rates are P2,000 net for a Garden Suite Room, P3,000 net for a One-Bedroom Executive, and P4,000 net for a Two-Bedroom Executive. Guests also have a chance to win free round-trip plane tickets for two and two night stay in Boracay.

Receive Christmas goodies from Real Living Magazine, Link and Link, News, Play the Fortune Wheel, Little Things, Johnny's, Sister Church, Christmas Wishes, W.I.T.C.H., K-7.com, Total Girl and Mountain King. New Year's eve dinner features singer Christian Bautista.

Call 520 10 10 or visit www.linden.com.ph.

Special treat for locals

MANDARIN Oriental has special holiday packages for local residents.

Single or double occupancy start at P3,500+ in a superior room; P3,400+ in a deluxe room; and, P3,600 in a premier room.

Packages are inclusive of Oriental breakfast at Tin Has, welcome fruiting, daily provision of local newspapers, two bottles of mineral water per day, in-room coffee/tea-making facilities, complimentary use of the health club facilities (gym, sauna, and pool), and complimentary local calls. Rates are valid until Jan. 5.

For Mandarin Oriental Club rooms, rates start at P5,500+, include of an executive breakfast, afternoon tea, evening cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and all-day refreshment at the exclusive Club Lounge, complimentary use of a Club boardroom for two hours, unlimited daily access to SPG's Connect broadband at arrival rate for Internet use, complimentary parking of one self-drive per day, and dedicated concierge services.

In keeping with the hotel's "White Christmas" theme, the hotel stimulates a snowfall 17-19 p.m., Dec. 24-25, and 12 noon-3 p.m., on Christmas Day at the hotel's entrance canopy and Plaza View windows with Santa Claus in attendance.

"Snowfall" will be repeated 7-10 p.m., Dec. 31.

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Holy Masses will be celebrated 10 p.m., Dec. 24, in the ballroom, and 11 a.m., Jan. 1, at the Captain's Bar. Call 1-800-1808-4524 or 7508888 local 2234. E-mail reservations@mandarinoriental.com or visit www.mandarinoriental.com.

Travel tips

TRAVEL Club, the store for luggage and travel accessories, offers some helpful tips for travelers:

• **Anticipate security procedures** in all airports or ports of entry. More time is needed to complete security checks. This is especially so during peak travel seasons when queues are longer and inspections are more thorough.

• **Be in the airport well ahead of your scheduled flight.** Allow more time for airport transfer and add a comfortable lead time for security and baggage checks and document control.

• **Organize travel documents and travel essentials** and carry them with you. With today's tighter security, they have to be presented at various stages of the trip. The chances of losing these items, especially all important items like travel documents, credit cards, cash, cell phones, inside are

easy to carry bag or traveling pouch. These are light and compact carry-ons with compartments that can accommodate essential papers in an orderly fashion. Bigger carry-on

have room for an extra set of light clothing and personal effects as bathroom in case your luggage gets lost in transit.

• **Know your destination.** Learn the latest travel advisories, security policies for visitors, health warnings, local laws and other pertinent information. Travel guides and web sites provide helpful tips on information of such nature.

• **Invest on luggage that is both stylish and functional.** Traveling in style is one of the fun aspects of traveling. But luggage also has to be functional and durable. The baggage should be able to help maintain a well-packed wardrobe that is kept relatively wrinkle-free and easy to manage during inspections. It should be easy to handle and has great mobility during long walks in the airport, keeping in shape despite numerous bumps and falls.

The Travel Club has the right luggage for you. It has branches in almost all 500 hotels, Ginobili, Shangri-La Plaza, Apple Center Mall, Alabang Town Center Market Market Bunkers Global City, Apple Center Mall and Robinsons Manila.



Luis and Diana Alvarez in cowboy gear



PNOC at the beach. Michelle Ullrich, Anna Marie De la, Nita Llanos, Lety Sotelo, Anapinto Ullrich, Michael and Joanna Ullrich with their son Matthew

A beautiful introduction to newlyweds

MARTINE (née Moraza) and Alberto de Rotaucha gave a beautiful cocktail party followed by dinner at the ballroom of the Cebu Country Club so friends and relations can meet their newly married children.

Raul Rotaucha met his bride, Martine, in Chicago, and their wedding took place in New Jersey where they will make their home—in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

The party could well have been a belated celebration for both Alberto and Martine whose birthdays fall in November. They both belong to The Group whose recent birthday celebrations were Ralph Dillaga at the service of the Cebu Hospital and Eddie Dela who chose a great venue at the beach.

For the birthday of Nita Llanos Llanos, a Sunday picnic was organized by her loving daughters, Anapinto and Anna Marie, accompanied, of course, by their darling husbands, Michael Ullrich and Johnny Dixon, respectively.

Setting was Michel and Anapinto's residence by the sea in Danao, an hour's ride south of the city on the eastern coast of Cebu Island. The best gift for Nita that day was the presence of her sister Lety Christiana Sotelo. She has lived in California for 55 years and she found Cebu, Martine and their constant visits changed since 1998.

"I like what I see," she said to her table mates at the picnic, but telling Anapinto Ullrich, Michel's cousin, a sharp and witty conversationalist. She was regaling her friends on her latest achieve-

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

ment, the presidency of Fibrosa of the Door (FIDR).

Mahjong fundraiser

Since the 1970s, the group of women gathers three afternoons a week at the Cebu Hospital to play mahjong. They start at 2 p.m., have a brightly colorful, and are home by 7 p.m. The stakes are low, but the tag is steep.

There is good reason for that. Raul is the PNOC member, the long-time ally and friend of the group. He is also involved in the past beneficiaries to build the hospital, organize for handicapped children, and projects for the mentally handicapped and others.

PNOC president Chanding Chonglapan indicated Angulo and the rest of the officers: vice president Virgil Rosend, secretary Bernadette Valenzuela, treasurer Carlos Fernandez and auditor Betty Torres.

In her inaugural speech Angulo, said she was proud that the PNOC had grown as much in recent years that it now needed a bigger function room. She asked everybody to stand and take an oath to live (and play) by the code of the organization.

Wild 80th

The birthday bash of the season was without doubt the wild 80th party tossed by Luis and Martine Alvarez to celebrate his turning 80. It was at the



NEWLYWEDS Emil and Melissa Rotaucha

family-owned Costa Bella, one of the pleasant resorts on Mactan Island.

Many was in full cowboy gear, and as was Luis, high boots and all. 800-reminding them were all their children: Martine and Gerry Garcia, Martine and Raul Arambula, Martine and Marco Nolasco, Martine and Francis Sy, Little Jr. and Raul Alvarez.

A horde of grandchildren, close relatives and dear friends hosted the celebration and feasted on the excellent food Costa Bella is famous for.

Next birthday in the family was that of Nita Llanos who celebrated at La Veranda of Montevideo Villa Hotel. From Nita Llanos' family of the house as they look like aristocrats is quite a secret. They were the first to appear on the hotel table.

Nita invited brothers Lito, Pablo

and Brigo from the western Telugu migration. They certainly turned up the evening with their Christmas cards in Spanish and a quick, albeit any lesson on how to dance the flamenco.

Stands on the hips, now your ribs, 120 the right hand, pretend you are picking an apple from the tree, look at the apple, bite it, dash it to the floor, catch it with your feet, and that's just one figure.

The other two ladies feeding off the excitement and shaking off some. Well, not!

Modern-day bard in Cebu

Angulo lived in 34 but has become an acclaimed vocalist not just in his native Germany but all over the world. For his Cebu performance, he had the excellent Mary Anne Kaplan as collaborating pianist.

The initial was presented by the Arts Council in partnership with Young King and Shanghai Book Corp., Manila, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Cebu Holdings Inc. and City Sports Club where the show was held.

Angulo's 10th Concerto No. 1 opened the program, followed by Beethoven's 10th Concerto No. 2.

The audience was moved when Angulo's "Canadian" and the Argentinean Carlos had "Moral Mile" by Mercedes X their were played.

After an intermission came a brilliant rendition of Maurice Ravel's Bolero. Angulo played with the Cebu Orchestra by Alberto Guevara. Angulo joined her for the finale, Ravel's Bolero, and the audience's ovation.

Angulo's 10th Concerto No. 1 opened the program, followed by Beethoven's 10th Concerto No. 2.

Angulo's 10th Concerto No. 1 opened the program, followed by Beethoven's 10th Concerto No. 2.

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Thinking 2005

DESIGNED: Rachel Orrego and Joseph Arce. Team: Anglo-Designs Inc. (based in New York). "She used to be called 'Hub' too," he laughs.

Despite the difference in their educational backgrounds (Orrego took Visual Communications at the University of the Philippines while Arce studied Economics at the Ateneo de Manila University), the two found a common denominator in their love for fashion. In fact, they both studied at Parsons in New York.

The two agreed readily in designing the hub. "I wanted to know how fashion designers do," Makina puts. Nonetheless, it's our first window. This is made you think differently," Orrego said.

And although it seemed that the timing was off because the store came a few days before Orrego's scheduled trip to Manila, the two were able to work that into an advantage.

Adding "What's new in 2005?" to the original theme, they decided to focus on trends for 2005. "It was good because Orrego was in Manila and we needed the trends. We both came from the fashion industry. It's an eye-opening to get out two country's worth," Orrego says.

The two worked on their concept long distance, maintaining the use of their busy lives. Orrego, who was supposed to serve as their window's inspiration.

When he had to go to work, Orrego would send the design to his phone while on their flight. The girls created a Christmas tree adorned with the busy lives of Orrego's phone and photos of things they think will be a big in the coming year.

"The photo is the better thing for next year. We wanted it to be interactive. We want people to come up and touch it and look at the photo. It's a little thing, but it's a fun thing."

Orrego said, "It was fun. They gave me a lot of feedback on the way."

"I think it's great that there's a young man there. He don't mean young, young, it's a student. It's progressive. This project is amazing. Orrego was very open-minded. It's a great idea. I was actually surprised. The Orrego team is about what's going on in the world now. There's a new, Orrego said.

The Christmas, Orrego will still be working.



DESIGNERS: Team Anglo-Designs (left) and Rachel Orrego, designers of the ultra modern Christmas tree window design at Hub. Orrego inspired by the ultra-chic Sony Store in NYC.

"I might actually work on the 2005," said Orrego. Look like Orrego will be on the same track too. Orrego added, "I asked my husband and he said, 'Let's see. We're going to take two more vacations.'"

The girls will go back to drawing their idea to their busy lives—and a huge chunk of which will undoubtedly be given to their new baby, Orrego, a fashion line that focuses on modern and indigenous designs. The two are actually advocates of preserving indigenous culture. The best work is a piece of art, they will be launching the entire collection next year as a single work.

There are some good things in store for these young creative minds.

When asked about their plans for the future, Orrego said, "Work, work. I'm expecting a lot of work on this."

Orrego, on the other hand, said, "I'm able to do really great work for the people I'm doing now. Give away with great work. Have enough time to go away with great work. And to every day."

Email the author at journal@albanyjournal.com.



Text by Peter Paster
Photo by Joseph Aguilera

FOR A lot of stores, preparing Christmas window displays involves taking the dust off previous year's twinkling lights and hanging up a new one or two. But such is not the case for the Hub by Orrego.

This year, they turned their window into a canvas for some of the country's brightest and

artistic minds. From the theme "Be Joyous" and mobile phones to prepare the creative process, the young artists went from the window to examine the window display of the Hub by Orrego. The display is a Christmas-inspired masterpiece.

Orrego caught up with these young artists. They talked about their work, their window display, their future plans and their vision of a Christmas.

These young artists decked the malls—but not with boughs of holly

Back to the future



KID genius thinking parents for an instant when he was just a child. "The boys showing about I was a kid. I was obsessed with it."

Although he has gone through it, Orrego has a lot of ideas on the way and even designing graphics for "new" parties—the ones he has on at Christmas 2005.

When he was approached about the window display project, he didn't think twice. "It was an opportunity to do something a little different, an opportunity to explore."

His inspiration, above all, was the Christmas TV. "I learned on the shape of the Christmas phone. My design is based on them. I kept it. The general theme of the phone is minimalist and modern."

Orrego's conceptualization involved a lot of thinking. "They asked us to come up with three designs." The people from Orrego surprised him with their reactions. "I wasn't expecting them to choose that. I thought they'd think it was too simple but they got what I was trying to say up with."

The result is a futuristic-looking, modern-looking, large phone shaped like the keyboard of a Macintosh and a Christmas tree.

With the window display project behind him, Orrego has a lot of other projects lined up in the near future. "The part of the group done by the Orrego family of the Philippines at the Museum of Art Center. It started last Dec. 14. I'm collaborating with a lighting director and a fashion designer for a one-day workshop. It's done in March. I also have three exhibits now on the calendar for next year."

But before that is Christmas. Although the minimalist holidays were so normal to him, Orrego played with Orrego's own ideas. Not just Orrego's ideas, of course. Orrego said, "I'm not sure if I'll be in the future. I'll spend it with friends, but for now I'm here."



A PROPOLINE shampoo container



PROPOLINE shampoos for men against hair loss



DREAMABLE face cream



HITAMPHOSSE body oil



HYPER-moisturizing cream

Sounds Greek, feels great

By Kary D. Salas

THERE is a new cosmetic and skincare line in the Hellenic block. It is a Greek line called Agriya (from the Greek "Agri" - sea and "Vita" - life).

The brand was founded by pharmacists Nikos and Viki Karamalis in 1979, who set out to make cosmetics that had natural medicinal properties except of their mother's formulas.

This duo did not stop at face and body care but also formulated exclusive hair treatment and shampoos for special needs. Agriya's botanical and natural ingredients are products such as honey, rose propolis, yarrow and especially, as well as botanical ingredients which are grown in Attica, the North, Thessaly, Chios Island and the Aegean Sea.

Due to its dedication to all-natural formulas, Agriya's products do not contain any artificial fragrances. In all though some products may not smell great, they work well and the smell won't stick to your clothes.

Agriya has three lines: Propoline, hair treatment and body line.

Propoline: This is Agriya's flagship product, which is named after propolis, the natural disinfectant of bees. It is Greece's leading cosmetic brand, offering effective, natural solutions to any skin need.

Propoline's shampoos have the highest market share in pharmacies in Greece. It has 13 kinds of shampoos that tackle every-

thing from dandruff to head lice.

There's also a cream that soothes lesions and soothes cuts and minor wounds. It's called Free All Balm, and it's the line's second best seller.

My favorite: Propoline products in the shampoo for oily hair with dry ends, and conditioner for dry, color-treated hair.

The shower gel has citrus and chamomile scents, while the SPF 12 lip balm is a no-nonsense solution to very dry lips. My chosen shampoo line found relief in Lip Aid Propolis.

Also available are insect repellent lotions, anti-tan lotion, even a flower line for quick relief from jellyfish stings and insect bites.

Aromatherapy: This line is for those who are obsessed with all-natural botanical aromas. Sales mostly from hotels and spas, the products are mostly for the face, such as propolis which is a for all-around hygiene product.

The face cream comes in pretty packaging that you can easily pack in your suitcase. There's a solution for every hair ailment.

No oily skin, the day cream is perfect with its propolis extract that soothes proper hydration and balances oiliness. The night cream treats dry patches and soothes skin irritation around the eye folds.

I also highly recommend the anti-wrinkle beauty capsules with vitamins C, E, F, biotin and green tea, and the SPF-16 multi-sunscreen face cream with orange, apricot, and green tea. The cream is sun-protecting.



HITAMPHOSSE cream



HITAMPHOSSE body care

works great, and gives your complexion a glow.

The capsules are meant to be used once a day for 30 days to make your skin soft, hydrated and less prone to damage. That's right to give them a much-needed vitamin boost.

Body Spa: At the moment, the line is for those who are addicted to spa and wish to bring the feel and experience of such relaxing pampering in their homes.

The Moisture phase: anti-cellulite body cream and massage oil is fast becoming a bestseller, and so is another, anti-wrinkle cream becoming obsessed with cellulite reduction.

These best ingredients are present in a whole range of products from shampoos, bath products, body lotion and oils. These ingredients are famous for energy and vitality.

Propolis, with its white chocolate, vanilla and white rose scents, is my hands-down favorite. Followed by Energy (ginger, lime and green tea), Deep Hydration (orange, mandarin and lemon).

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THURMO-dermatology follows the international standards developed by Dr. Howard Murad.

THE THURMO Spa is located in the heart of the treatment room, a consultation area and relaxation room for clients.



Unique solutions to skin dilemmas



THE THURMO Spa is opening Dr. Howard Murad, Ambassador of the American Society of Dermatologists and the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

THURMO has opened its first skin center outside of the United States at the new Daphne Medical Center.

The new facility offers a range of treatments that address different skin concerns, with medical treatments that follow the international standards developed by Dr. Howard Murad, a top dermatologist in the United States.

The Murad Clinic offers advanced Murad treatments that create unique solutions to skin problems. These treatments include the Vitamin C Absolute Facial, where a powerful combination of pure Vitamin C is delivered to the skin to reduce hyperpigmentation, improve skin texture and reduce skin tone. The Vitamin C Absolute Facial repairs and prevents damage resulting from environmental exposure.

Anti-aging unique treatment is the Clarifying, because Professional treatment that reduces skin texture, hyperpigmentation and fine lines, as well as treats blemishes, clogged pores and acne lesions.

The Clarifying because Professional treatment utilizes natural fruit enzymes of papaya and pineapple which are combined with antioxidants, anti-aging and anti-inflammatory ingredients that soothe and soothe skin.



THURMO spa treatments help bring back skin firmness, multi-layer skin hydration and reduction of fine lines and wrinkles.